

NWA Professional Development Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, April 30, 2009

12:00-1:15 p.m. (ET)

1. Conference Call Participants

Greg Byrd, Greg Carbin, Ken Carey, John Ferree, Mark Fox, Jordan Gerth, Elise Johnson, and Brian Motta

2. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Professional Development Committee (PDC) committee chair K. Carey thanked everyone for their outstanding support and help so far, and challenged each committee member on ways of enhancing the professionalism of the NWA and supporting the NWA's mission for "excellence in operational meteorology".

3. PDC Web Site

(<http://www.nwas.org/committees/professionaldevelopment/index.php>)

K. Carey thanked J. Gerth for building on what is fast becoming an excellent web page for promoting professional development opportunities. Several other committee members (notably, M. Fox, G. Carbin and J. Ferree), have taken an active role in leading recommended enhancements to this page. There were several suggestions for improvement, especially with the training links. These will be addressed later in this summary.

The NWA Information Technology (IT) committee requested of each committee a list of IT related items your committee would like to implement over the next few years. J. Gerth will be requesting your suggestions, with a suspense for responses of May 18.

ACTIONS:

(1) ALL: Provide your comments and other feedback to enhance the content and appeal of our committee web page to K. Carey and J. Gerth.

(2) J. Gerth: Coordinate and ensure we submit (by May 28) a "wish list" for IT improvements our committee would like to implement over the next few years

4. Meeting our 2009 Objectives

- *Identify and promote professional development opportunities for NWA members, to include those most applicable to broadcasters, forecasters, and students; encourage opportunities for mentoring*

Our committee has been successful in creating opportunities for promoting professionalism development, through our improved web offerings, newsletter articles, four opportunities at the NWA annual meeting, and participation in complementary professional development venues. It will continue to be our entire committee's responsibility to meet this objective.

ACTIONS:

(1) ALL: Before and during our next conference call, provide your suggestions and ideas on innovative ideas to promote professional development opportunities for NWA members.

(2) K. Carey: Send an e-mail to all NWA committee chairs requesting their feedback on professional development needs, opportunities and suggestions.

- *Update and enhance the professional development committee web pages; organize them for maximum usefulness and exposure; consider adding a sentence description to help members better identify the most useful links*

There were several suggestions for improving our web pages, especially with the training links. Since this will require a significant effort, M. Fox, G. Carbin, G. Byrd, J. Ferree and B. Motta volunteered to make recommendations on ways to enhance this section. J. Gerth will also consider options to make the best use of the "Hot Topic" section.

ACTION: M. Fox/G Carbin/G. Byrd/J. Ferree/B. Motta: By June 1 provide your recommendations on enhancements to the training links section of our PDC web site.

- *Publish regular articles on professional development in the NWA newsletter, and submit for posting particularly noteworthy highlights on the NWA web site*

Nearly every committee member has contributed to the creation, review and co-authorship of monthly articles submitted for publication in the NWA newsletter. K. Carey published an professional development overview article; M. Fox created an article on our new web offering; G. Byrd put together an update on COMET's newly available education and training modules (e.g.,

drought, tropical meteorology, fire weather, and marine meteorology); and E. Johnson created an article on student professional development needs, all published in NWA newsletters so far in 2009.

For the rest of 2009, planned articles include ones on voluntary weather observations, a series of articles on presenting oral and poster presentations, broadcaster professional development needs, and the station scientist. G. Byrd suggested an article on Fire Weather, M. Fox suggested one on best practices on poster presentations, B. Motta suggested an article on vendor technologies (e.g., Baron Services on Dual Pol), several suggested that Jim Cantore's perspective on broadcaster professional development and K. Carey recommended one on WAS*IS activities.

ACTIONS:

(1) ALL: By May 20, provide suggested topics for monthly PDC newsletter articles to D. Miller and K. Carey to enhance the professional development of NWA members.

(2) D. Miller: By May 30, develop, with committee input, a consolidate list of proposed PDC newsletter article for 2009.

- *Host short operational training workshops at the 2009 NWA Annual Meeting on high impact topics (e.g., communication, new and evolving technologies), collaborating with other committees, experts and stakeholders (e.g., broadcasters, remote sensing, NWP), wherever appropriate*

Our Professional Development Committee has proposed four specific opportunities for professional development for inclusion as part of the 2009 NWA Annual Meeting, and has been coordinating our efforts with the NWA President, Program Chair of the 2009 Annual Meeting Committee, and the Broadcast Workshop Chair. They include a mini-session on broadcaster professional development, in partnership with the Remote Sensing Committee, professional development for students as part of the student session on Sunday afternoon, a student DVD/resume critique on Sunday night, and a general session program on communicating weather information. K. Carey will present them to the program committee at the May 5 program committee conference call for approval to proceed.

ACTIONS:

(1) ALL: Provide suggestions, ideas, and other feedback on opportunities to enhance the professional development of NWA members at the annual

meeting, as well as other appropriate meetings, conferences, and symposia.

(2) K. Carey/D. Freeman: Report back to the committee the status of the professional development opportunities planned at the October 2009 annual meeting, and any needs from the committee for suggestions and assistance.

- *Support the NWA awards process by submitting at least one NWA annual award nomination package that recognizes professional development excellence*

The committee discussed the five (5) award nominations suggested by B. Motta, and agreed that these people/organizations were deserving of consideration of recognition for their professional development excellence. A award will be “championed” by a committee member, and the award nomination package will be reviewed by the committee on or about June 18 before being submitted to the NWA by July 1.

ACTIONS:

(1) E. Johnson, B. Motta, K. Carey, and J. Ferree: By June 18, provide a draft but complete award nomination package to the committee for their review and comment. By June 24 finalize the award package, and e-mail the complete package to K. Carey

(2) K. Carey: Ensure the award nomination packages are submitted to the NWA Awards Committee Chair (Dan McCarthy) before July 1.

5. NWA Weather Museum Partnership

In December 2008 A. Gardner and K. Carey sent a letter to the NWA Council strongly recommending the NWA consider joining other professional organizations as a corporate sponsor of the John C. Freeman Weather Museum. For a small investment, the NWA can help promote top-notch weather education to those who will be the future leaders of our profession. We also proposed that the NWA Education Committee consider joining the Weather Museum in a partnership to increase the education of teachers and students in topics related to operational meteorology. Both of these initiatives would support NWA’s mission of “...supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology...”. The Council members were unanimous in their support for a partnership between the Freeman Museum and the Education Committee. However, they asked that we resubmit the request for corporate sponsorship since they are concerned about the

NWA's 2009 budget given recent investment losses and current costs not considered in 2008. A subsequent discussion with the Education Committee indicated they are interested in exploring a relationship and collaboration with the Museum.

ACTION: A. Gardner: Follow-up with the NWA Education Committee, and recommend they apply for the Sol Hirsch Education Grant by the June 15 deadline. Recommend they also participate in the Teacher's Weather Workshop planned for Wednesday, October 21st from 1:30 PM - 6:30 PM, in conjunction with the 34th NWA Annual Meeting.

6. Next Conference Call

Our next PDC meeting will be a conference call in late July 2009.

ACTION: K. Carey: Schedule and publish the next committee conference call.